

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 PPT-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 L-03

DRC-01 /063 W

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R 220906Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2607

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CIVS KS

SUBJ: ROKG PLANNED ACION AGAINST NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT

REF: SEOUL 1212

1 DURING CALL BY CONGRESSMEN ZABLOCKI AND BROOMFIELD, PRIMIN KIM DISCUSSED IMPENDING ROKG ACTION AGAINST NEWSWEEK TOKYO CORRESPONDENT BERNARD KRISHER (REFTEL).

2. PRIMIN STRESSED THAT, IN ROKG VIEW, KRISHER, IN HIS REPORTING, "HAD GONE TOO FAR" AND HAD INSULTED THE ROKG HEAD OF STATE. WHILE DECISION TO REVOKE HIS VISA TRIGGERED BY FEB 18 NEWSWEEK ARTICLE, PRIMIN MADE CLEAR THAT ACTION BASED ON GENERAL PATTERN OF KRISHER'S REPORTING OVER PAST MONTHS. PRIMIN SAID THAT ROKG WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT "CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM" BUT KRISHER HAD GONE BEYOND ACCEPTABLE BOUNDS. ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, BOTH CONGRESSMEN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SUCH ACTION AGAINST THE US NEWSMAN WOULD CAUSE MORE PROBLEMS FOR ROKG THAN KRISHER'S ARTICLES THEMSELVES.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE PRIMIN'S HARD LINE, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT ROKG CANCELLATION OF KRISHER'S
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VISA MIGHT BE DELAYED. WE UNDERSTAND ROK AMBASSADOR

TOKYO HAS COME IN WITH STRONG RECOMMENATION THAT
MATTER BE RECONSIDERED. AS INDICATED BY FONMIN KIM
(REFTEL), MOFA IS TRYING TO USE THAT RECLAMA TO SECURE
REVERSAL OF DECISION TO CANCEL KRISHER'S VISA.
HABIB

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NNN

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